
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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**GREGG LAUDS FINAL CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF DEFENSE BILL
THAT INCLUDES EXPANDED CONCURRENT RECEIPT PROVISION**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today supported the Fiscal Year 2004 Defense Authorization Conference Report, which includes a concurrent receipt provision allowing disabled military retirees to receive both their military retired pay and their veterans' disability compensation if the disability is rated at 50 percent or greater. The measure passed the Senate, its final Congressional hurdle, by an overwhelming margin today and now heads to the White House for the President's consideration. Senator Gregg is a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and has supported concurrent receipt authorizations over the last two years.

Current law requires that retirees waive a portion of their retired pay equal to the amount of any VA disability compensation. The new benefit, which will be phased in over ten years, will alter current law that prohibits receiving full payments of both at the same time for those whose disability is rated at 50 percent or greater. The legislation also includes special consideration for combat-related disabilities, including those rated at 50 percent or less.

Senator Gregg stated, "On Veterans Day, the importance of the tremendous sacrifices that the men and women of our armed forces have given are echoed in speeches and proclamations. Today, the Senate has given action to those words. In a bill that authorizes significant pay raises for all uniformed personnel and other initiatives to upgrade the military, these concurrent receipt provisions send a signal to the former, current and future men and women of our military that the United States takes care of those that fight for its protection."

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